

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: December 12, 2013

Agenda Item: 2014 – 2015 Elk Hunting Seasons, Quota Ranges and HD Boundaries

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 25 minutes

Background

Season structures and hunting district boundaries are adopted biennially for most game species. This happens every other year between December and final adoptions in February. In proposing regulations to the Commission, FWP proposes adopting the existing (2013) structure except for specific changes. Proposals are based on population status and/or other circumstances.

For the 2014 and 2015 elk season structure, some of the more significant proposed changes include reducing antlerless harvest which would be more limited to private lands in Regions 2; general antlerless hunting and region-wide b-license structure in Region 4; and general antlerless/spike and region-wide B-license structure in Region 5. No changes are proposed for the elk archery permit structure.

For other proposed changes see Commission Master List for the December meeting.

Public Involvement Process & Results

Elk season comments were received during scoping and included interest in more conservative antlerless opportunities, archery permits, and public/private land management. In addition to public comment at the Dec. 12 Commission meeting, public comment will run through 5 p.m. Jan. 24, 2014. Any final adoptions will take place at the Feb.13, 2014 Commission meeting.

Alternatives and Analysis

Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, with deletions or no change from 2013 (status quo). No change would challenge the supporting justifications behind proposals.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

Rationale for individual proposals have been included in Commission information packets and may be further articulated at the Dec. 12 Commission meeting.

Proposed Motion

I move the Commission adopt the 2014 and 2015 Elk Hunting Seasons and Hunting Districts as presented by FWP.